

Environment and Human Health, Inc.
1191 Ridge Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473
Phone (203) 248-6582 Fax (203) 288-7571

**RAISED BILL 263 AN ACT REQUIRING TANNING FACILITIES TO PROVIDE
NOTIFICATION OF THE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF
TANNING DEVICES.**

**Chairs Senator Jonathan Harris, Representative Betsy Ritter, and
Members of the Public Health Committee:**

My name is Nancy Alderman. I am President of Environment and Human Health, Inc., (EHHI) a non-profit organization comprised of nine members who are physicians and public health professionals

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is in support of Bill 263 - but asks that the Bill add an amendment restricting the use of tanning devises in tanning salons for people under the age of 18.

The reason for this is that teenagers 18 and under are at the greatest risk for developing melanomas later in life from their use of tanning beds in their teenage years.

Tanning beds have now been ranked alongside cigarettes, arsenic and asbestos as posing the greatest threat of cancer to humans according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Tanning beds in tanning salons have been moved to the highest cancer risk category and labeled as "carcinogenic to humans. " The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is a French-based agency, which is part of the World Health Organization.

The IARC publishes a series of "Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans," also known as WHO's encyclopedia of carcinogens, ranking the risk agents in groups of severity from one to four. Group 1, where the new ranking for tanning beds now are, includes asbestos, arsenic and tobacco products as well.

Research published in the latest edition of The Lancet Oncology Medical Journal, found using tanning beds could increase the risk of developing cancer by 75 percent, particularly if used by children and young adults.

"The risk of skin melanoma is increased by 75 percent when use of tanning devices starts before 30 years of age," said the report.

Connecticut presently requires children under ¹⁶ ~~18~~ to bring a written letter of consent from a parent or guardian when they visit a tanning salon. However, this is clearly not adequate to protect teenagers and does nothing for the group of teenagers ~~18~~ ^{up} to 18 - a

group that heavily uses tanning salons. Connecticut must do more. The [REDACTED] age requirement of having consent for those 16 and under is simply not protective enough.

It is known that teenagers often indulge in risky behavior and that it is adults that are responsible for helping to protect their health.

A consent letter for teenagers 16 and under is clearly not protective enough. Connecticut needs to restrict the use of tanning devices in tanning salons for people under 18 years of age.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Alderman". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.